First Congregational
United Church of Christ

111 S. Wallace Blvd. Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(Mailing Address: P.O. Box 980413 Ypsilanti, MI 48198)
www.ypsiucc.org

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

April 24, 2022
10:00 am

“Trees of Life”
Second Sunday of Eastertide
Break the Silence Sunday, Earth Sunday

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, You are welcome here!

WORSHIP ON ZOOM -- Zoom opens at 9:30 am Sunday morning.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7643282234

Meeting ID: 764 328 2234
Passcode: Ypsi1882
To join by phone, dial the number, 1-312-626-6799

- Welcome to Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC's Zoom Worship Service
- Hymns are included in the worship bulletin. A separate hymnal is not needed.
- If you are joining worship for the first-time on Zoom, please add your name and email to the chat so the Zoomie Greeter can introduce you.
- Thank you for choosing to worship with us today!

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT OF
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identifies and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions. All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe, nurturing community of faith. We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

a just world for all
ucc.org

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Start Zoom Recoding to Cloud **VISHNU SRINIVAS**

"Improvisation" Etude Op.46 No.4, Macdowell

RINGING THE BELL **MARTY KLEINO**

WELCOME **PASTOR LIZ**

- A warm welcome to all, including first-time visitors.
- As stated in our Open and Affirming Covenant (previous page), all persons are welcome in this community of faith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS **DONNA EYSTER**

- **COMMUNITY SHARING OF OTHER ANNOUNCMENTS:**
  - The Worship Leader will introduce Roomie Greeter, **Patty Sherwood**, and Zoomie greeter, **Daniel Kidder-McQuown**.
  - The Greeters will introduce folks participating in worship.
  - Please share your announcements so everyone can learn what is happening in our beloved ministry community.
  - If you are a Roomie, please come to the pulpit/podium to make your announcement or use the handheld microphone offered by the Roomie Greeter so all can hear. Please do the same when offering a prayer request.
  - Please submit written announcements to Margaret Harner, Worship Coordinator, margaretsharner@gmail.com, by midnight on Tuesday.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN *Microphone muted *Standing is optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Song of Earth"

Words: © Norman Habel (1999), Tune: *Easter Hymn,* Charles Wesley (1739)

1. **Hail the Earth that first appeared. Alleluia!**
   When a word from God was heard. Alleluia!
   Let the Earth arise and be. Alleluia!
   Filled with living mystery. Alleluia!
2. **Hail the rainbow flying high. Alleluia!**
   Spun by God across the sky. Alleluia!
   Giving Earth a solemn word. Alleluia!
   Never to unleash a flood. Alleluia!
3. **Hail the planet blue and green. Alleluia!**
   Where the face of God is seen. Alleluia!
   Glory filling all the Earth. Alleluia!
   Celebrating every birth. Alleluia!
4. **Hail our body made with clay. Alleluia!**
   Given breath to praise and pray. Alleluia!
   Clay God honored by God's birth. Alleluia!
   As a human life on Earth. Alleluia!

5. **Hail the groans of Earth in pain. Alleluia!**
   From the weight of human sin. Alleluia!
   Longing for the Christ who died. Alleluia!
   All creation to revive. Alleluia!

CALL TO WORSHIP — DONNA EYSTER

Leader: Hear the proclamation of faith: Christ is risen from the dead! The Spirit is poured out. Lives are transformed.

People: God is active in our world. God brings hope and healing.

Leader: Hear the call of God: The Spirit of God invites us into community. We are called to see beyond ourselves, and to join in loving care for all those around us.

People: We accept God's call, and we rejoice in the gift of community.

Leader: Hear a challenge for today: The Earth is stressed by the heavy impact of human use. The whole of God's creation is groaning, crying out in pain.

People: We name the Earth as part of our community.
We extend our love to all of God's creation.

Leader: People of faith, gather now to worship God the creator and redeemer of the world. Gather now to be transformed by God's compassionate love.

People: We praise with joy the world's creator, God of justice, love and peace!

HYMN *Microphone muted *Standing is optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"All the Earth Belongs to God"

LISTENING FOR GOD

FIRST READING — **Genesis 2:4a-17**, **Revelation 22:1-5** — **DONNA EYSTER**

SECOND READING — **Romans 8:19-25** — **JENN ZIBBELL**

HYMN *Microphone muted *Standing is optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One"
"A toi la gloire, O Ressuscite!"
253 NCH

MORNING MESSAGE — **"Trees of Life"** — **JENN ZIBBELL**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pause Zoom recording

*Zoomies: Please turn on your microphone

*Roomies: Please come to the pulpit/podium or use the hand-held microphone so all can hear.

You are invited to share your joys and petitions for prayer.
Please unmute your microphone to share a joy or make a prayer of petition.
At the end of each joy or petition, please say **"God in your mercy"**
We will respond (with microphones muted) **"Hear our prayers"**

PASTORAL PRAYER *Restart Zoom recording **JENN ZIBBELL**

DISCIPLES' PRAYER (Unison) *Microphone muted **JENN ZIBBELL**

Earth teach me stillness
As the grasses are stilled with light.
Earth teach me suffering
As old stones suffer with memory.
Earth teach me humility
As blossoms are humble with beginning.
Earth teach me caring
As the mother who secures her young.
Earth teach me courage
As the tree which stands all alone.
Earth teach me limitation
As the ant which crawls on the ground.
Earth teach me freedom
As the eagle which soars in the sky.
Earth teach me resignation
As the leaves which die in the fall.
Earth teach me regeneration
As the seed which rises in the spring.
Earth teach me to forget myself
As melted snow forgets its life.
Earth teach me to remember kindness
As dry fields weep with rain.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY INVITATION **JENN ZIBBELL**

Our electronic giving platform is Tithe.ly: Link to Tithe.ly

Please place in-person offerings in the gold offertory plate on the table by the door.

Checks can be mailed to:
First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERTORY **"Traumerei" Etude Op. 46 No. 9, Macdowell** **VISHNU SRINIVAS**

DOXOLOGY *Microphone muted *Standing is optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

***Tune:** *Lasst Uns Erfeuen*, **lyrics from First Central Congregational UCC, Omaha, NE**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *Unison with Microphone muted **DONNA EYSTER**

All good gifts come from you, dear God, and you reveal glimpses of your grace through them.
Thank you for inviting us to be partners with you in caring for your creation.
We offer these gifts now, knowing that they come first from you,
then from other members of your family of creation, then from us.
Bless these symbols of our awareness that we depend upon you
and your creation for all that we call "ours."
Please accept these gifts and our desire to be your partners.
In Your name. Amen.

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

CLOSING HYMN *Microphone muted *Standing is optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"I'll Shout the Name of Christ Who Lives"
234 NCH

BENEDICTION (RESPONSIVE) **JENN ZIBBELL**

Leader: Blessed are they who reverence all created things as sacred: in God's eyes all creation is good.

People: Blessed are they who understand that creation is like a beautiful tapestry, with every strand depending on others.

Leader: Blessed are they who see the beauty of Earth as a reflection of the beauty of God, who creates it.

People: Blessed are they who do not waste or spoil Earth's resources, which are for everyone, even those not born yet.

Leader: Blessed are they who reverence the air-the breath of God and the Spirit of our life.

People: Blessed are they who reverence the life-giving waters that sustain the Earth's climate and nourish Earth's inhabitants.

Leader: Blessed are they who reverence the soil that supports our homes and our footsteps and yields abundant harvests.

People: Blessed are they who reverence the trees and other plants that call down the rains, stabilize the soil, and freshen the air.

Leader: Blessed are they who reduce what they consume, re-use what they can, and recycle what they can no longer use.

People: Blessed are they who praise God the Creator in their reverent and gentle use of all things on Earth.

Leader: Amen.

People: Amen.

POSTLUDE *Please remain seated **VISHNU SRINIVAS**

"I See the Light" from Disney's *Tangled,* Alan Menken/Glenn Slater

PASSING THE PEACE **FRIENDS GATHERED**

- Share a greeting with others as we transition to our casual **Friendship Time.**

Hybrid (In-person & Zoom) Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Rev. Liz Larrivee, Pastor & Spiritual Director
Tiffanie Waldron, Music Director

Jenn Zibbell, Guest Preacher
Vishnu Srinivas, Guest Accompanist
Jenn Zibbell, Seminary Intern
Donna Eyster, Worship Leader
Patty Sherwood, Roomie Greeter
Daniel Kidder-McQuown, Zoomie Greeter
Marty Kleino, Usher & Bell Ringer
Wayne Burling, Technical Coordinator
Covid Health Advisor, Patty Sherwood

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ATTRIBUTIONS FOR TODAY'S BULLETIN

- **Cover Art:** Photo by Gabriel Tovar on Unsplash
- **Call to Worship:** From Web of Creation
- **Sermon Resources:** Bolen, Jean Shinoda. (2020). *Like a Tree*. Mango Media.
- **Pastoral Prayer:** From St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Medina, Washington
- **Disciples Prayer:** From *Earth Prayers*, "Rig Veda 1" by Nancy Wood
- **Offertory Invitation:** From Green Earth Care Worship
- **Prayer of Dedication:** By Tanya Marcovna Barnett
- **Benediction:** From "Beatitudes for Stewards of Earth" by Father Ed Eschweiler
- **Hymn Profiles:**
  - Gathering Hymn: "Song of Earth", Words by Norman Habel, 1999
  - Opening Hymn: "All the Earth Belongs to God", Text and music by Amanda Udis-Kessler, 2022 (used with permission)

Thank you to Jenn Zibbell for preaching today, sharing her faith, gifts, and creativity with us.

Thank you to Vishnu Srinivas, for sharing his musical gifts and talents this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YFC UCC Community Lenten/Easter Discernment Gatherings

God is still speaking in this time. It is up to us to listen.

Pastor Liz invites all to attend a series of 7-Week Community Lenten/Easter Discernment Gatherings to listen for who the Spirit is calling us to be--and the ministry we are being called to do—as we serve together in covenant relationship following the Way of Jesus.

Cliff Notes Version:

This week's Community Discernment Gatherings are scheduled for:

- **Today: Sunday, April 24--Sidetracks in Ypsilanti from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm** in the private dining room (near the back porch) 52 E Cross Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48198. https://www.sidetrackbarandgrill.com/
- **Tuesday, April 26--Zoom Only from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm** using the church zoom meeting number.
- **We will be covering Chapter 4 (Pg 67-92): "Deeping Group Discernment: Seeing What God Is Up To"** from Susan Beaumont's *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season.*

Additional Background Information:

These Community Lenten/Easter Discernment Gatherings are being held each week. The last gathering will occur on May 10th. We will be discussing the small, but powerful book selected by the UCC MI Conference Vital Growth Mission Area Team for the recent 2022 Vitality Day attended by Pastor Liz: ***How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season*** by inter-denominational faith-based consultant, coach and spiritual director Susan Beaumont.

Since adult learners have different learning styles, some folks may prefer to participate in the gatherings, but not read the book. This is fine. The print font size in the book is small. Some folks have found the Kindle version helpful because font size can be enlarged. For those who want to read the book but find themselves crunched for time: scanning the headings, visuals, and bullet points will be helpful preparation.

Whatever individual means of preparation works best, our community discernment and learning process will be enhanced the more folks attend the gatherings each week. Folks who read and reflect on each chapter prior to attending the gatherings will enhance the depth and quality of our conversation and our community discernment process.

If you would like the church to purchase a book for you, please let Donna know and she will order a copy (deyster63@gmail.com). If you purchase the Kindle version, please let Donna know and she can reimburse you. Or, if you prefer to purchase your own book to reduce the church's annual operating expenses, please do so.

To provide as many opportunities for folks to participate in this community transforming work as possible—and realizing that compromises will always need to be made—each week Pastor Liz will host two gatherings to do this important work. Please attend the one that best fits your busy schedule. If you miss the gathering you usually attend, please attend a different gathering held that week covering the same material. If schedules allow, **Pastor Liz invites folks to attend both gatherings during the week in order to support the cross-pollination of discernment insights between both gatherings.**

Participants are encouraged to follow their conscience in relation to their unique health risk status when deciding which gatherings to attend and whether to wear a mask. The Sunday in-person gathering includes the option to purchase food and/or beverages and share in-person friendship time.

Thank you for gifting our church with your spiritual gifts, life energy and time during this Lenten/Easter season of our lives together.

Worship next week: Tito Schwabe, Worship Leader; Sue Schuon, Room Greeter; Jenn Zibbell, Zoom Greeter

Thank you to Tad Wysor and Donna Eyster: Thank you to both Tad and Donna. Tad will be our guest preacher on May 22nd and Donna will bring the message on May 29th. Thank you both for sharing your faith and gifts with us.

Next Church Council Meeting: Thursday, April 28, 6:00 pm on Zoom.

Summer Zoom Only Worship: Church Council made the decision to move to Zoom Only Sunday worship (no in-person) for the summer beginning May 29 through September 11.

Fall Hybrid Worship Kick-Off Sunday: September 18. Combined Zoom and in- person worship will resume in our sanctuary on Sunday, September 18 at 10:00 am.

Fall Pet Blessing Ceremony: September 25 at 2:00 pm: This fun family and pet friendly service will be held outdoors (weather permitting) in the park next to the church. UCC Member in Discernment (MID) and Seminary Intern, Jenn Zibbell, is team leader for this service. Please contact Jenn if you would like to help with planning and hosting. More details will be announced over the summer.

Kroger Fundraiser: Have you registered your Kroger card? We get a small check every quarter forpurchases made using your card when it's registered. It's a simple process. Go to Kroger.com and click "**Register**" and follow the prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link tothe **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83262**, or you can find our name in the drop-down list. Any Questions: contact Barbara Garland at bargarland@yahoo.comor 734-662-5803

OUR CHURCH'S MISSIONS

THE BEACON CENTER

The **Beacon Center** is the newest community social justice of the Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC. As a light to all persons, the Beacon Center's ministry will support the spiritual formation, creative expression, overall thriving and advocacy of at-risk students of all ages, including those affiliated with three primary local institutions of higher learning: Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College and University of Michigan. In the Spirit of the UCC moto, "That They All Shall Be One", Beacon Center serves as a uniting and unifying umbrella across our congregation serving persons sources through our three other community social justice ministry networks. Those ministries (each detailed below) include WICIR (Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights) serving the immigrant communities, MI-ONA (Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition) serving LGTBQ+ persons, and WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition) which brings together faith, labor and community organizations to address local issues.

The Beacon Center is committed to advocate for self-determination and education for all people, especially students living in poverty, persons of color experiencing racism, and other de-humanizing circumstances and conditions. Beacon Center's student demographics include persons of color, immigrants, minorities, LGTBQ+ folk, women, those with special needs, the economically disadvantaged, those facing housing insecurity, the financially challenged, and the working poor. For additional information on the Beacon Center, please contact Rev. Liz Larrivee at lizlarrivee@gmail.com

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY – WASHTENAW INTERFAITH COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS (WICIR)

Since 2008, **WICIR** has been working with, and in support of, immigrants in Washtenaw County facing challenges of many kinds. At our inception the primary need that brought us together was to support people facing enforcement action by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement); most often detention, deportation, and removal. To date, WICIR has responded to 650 calls. Always in partnership with folks most affected, many actions and services have evolved as identified by our immigrant siblings, while always keeping focused on our original mission:

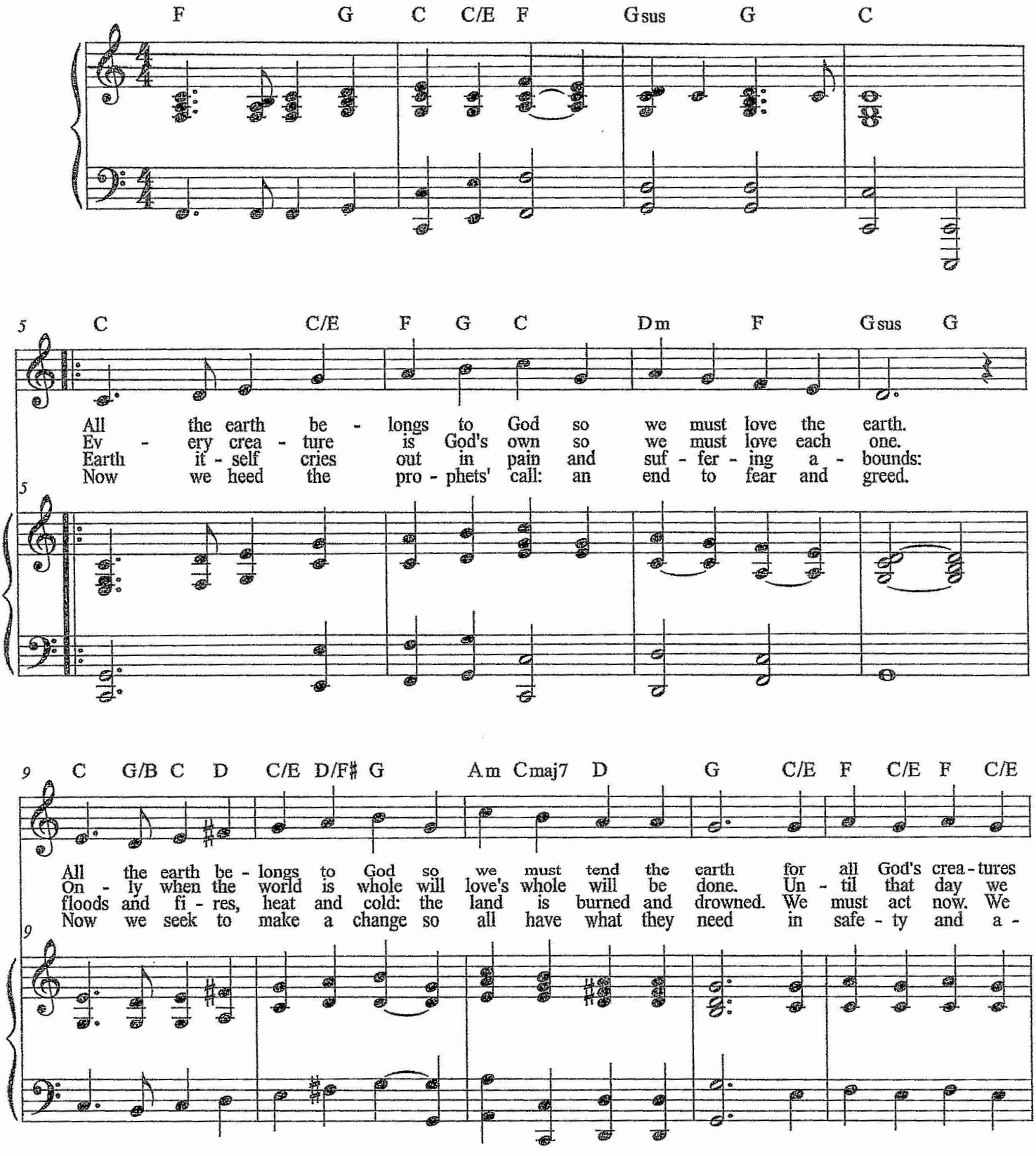
To provide culturally sensitive and supportive urgent response to those in Washtenaw County in immigration-related crises; impact local governmental policies to empower and protect immigrant community members; and work toward humane national immigration reform.

Our outreach has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many in immigrant communities have experienced significant challenges as they struggle to pay rent, provide food for their families and other basic survival needs. To respond, WICIR, in partnership with Mexiquenses in Michigan (from St. Francis of Assisi Parish), has raised and distributed $200,000 relief funds to immigrants and their families. We have a waiting list of those still in need and will continue this effort as funds are available.

All the Earth Belongs to God:

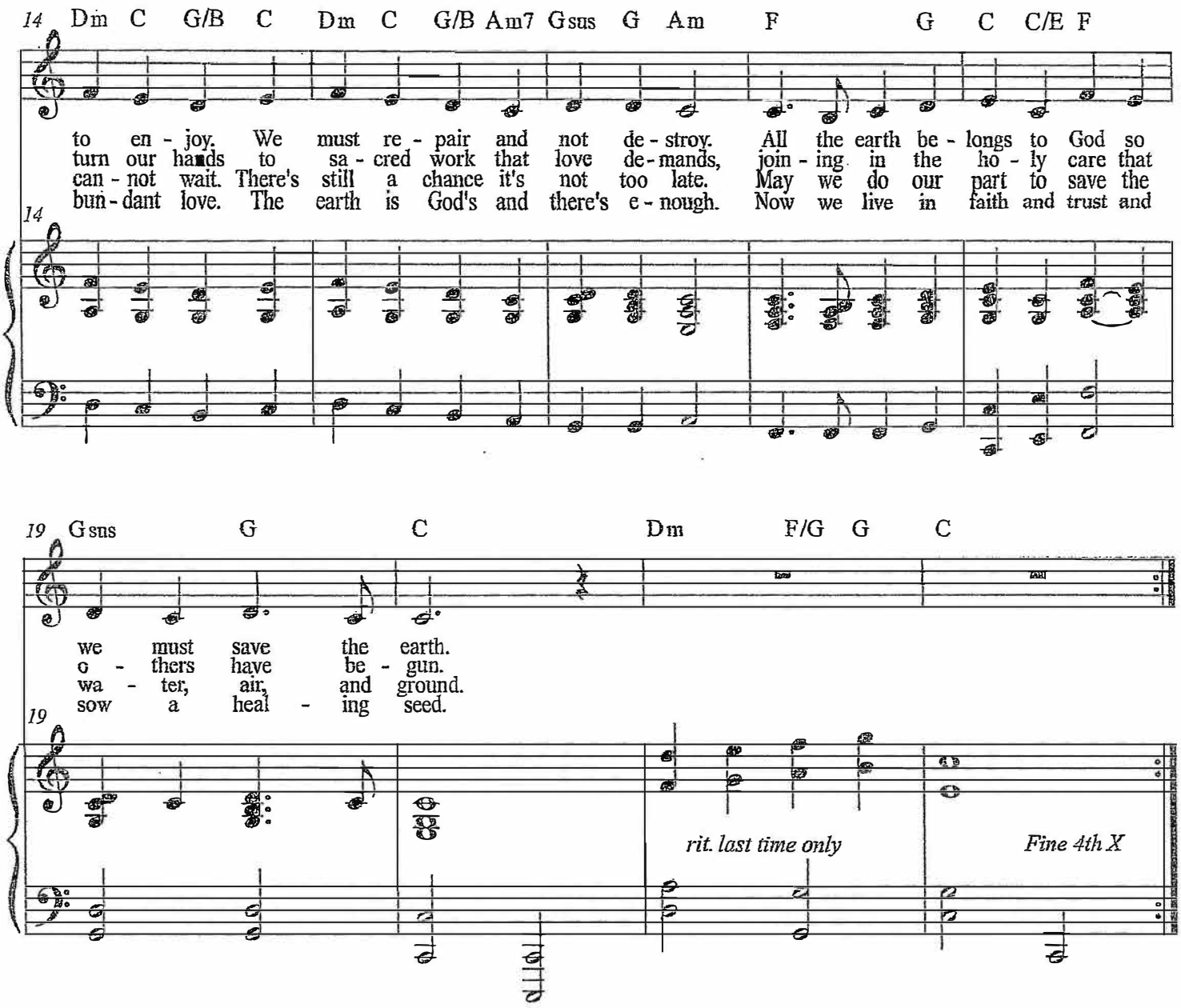
An Environmental Justice Hymn

Amanda Udis-Kessler

(♩ = 120)

F G C C/E F Gsus G C
5 C C/E F G C Dm F Gsus G
All the earth be - longs to God so we must love the earth.
Ev - ery crea - ture is God's own so we must love each one.
Earth it - self cries out in pain and suf - fer - ing a - bounds:
Now we heed the pro - phets' call: an end to fear and greed.
9 C G/B C D C/E D/F♯ G Am Cmaj7 D G C/E F C/E F C/E
All the earth be - longs to God so we must tend the earth for all God's crea - tures
On - ly when the world is whole will love's whole will be done. Un - til that day we
floods and fi - res, heat and cold: the land is burned and drowned. We must act now. We
Now we seek to make a change so all have what they need in safe - ty and a -

2/2

All the Earth Belongs to God:


14 Dm C G/B C Dm C G/B Am7 Gsus G Am F G C C/E F
to en - joy. We must re - pair and not de - stroy. All the earth be - longs to God so
turn our hands to sa - cred work that love de - mands, join - ing in the ho - ly care that
can - not wait. There's still a chance it's not too late. May we do our part to save the
bun - dant love. The earth is God's and there's e - nough. Now we live in faith and trust and
19 Gsus G C Dm F/G G C
we must save the earth.
o - thers have be - gun.
wa - ter, air, and ground.
sow a heal - ing seed.
rit. last time only
Fine 4th X

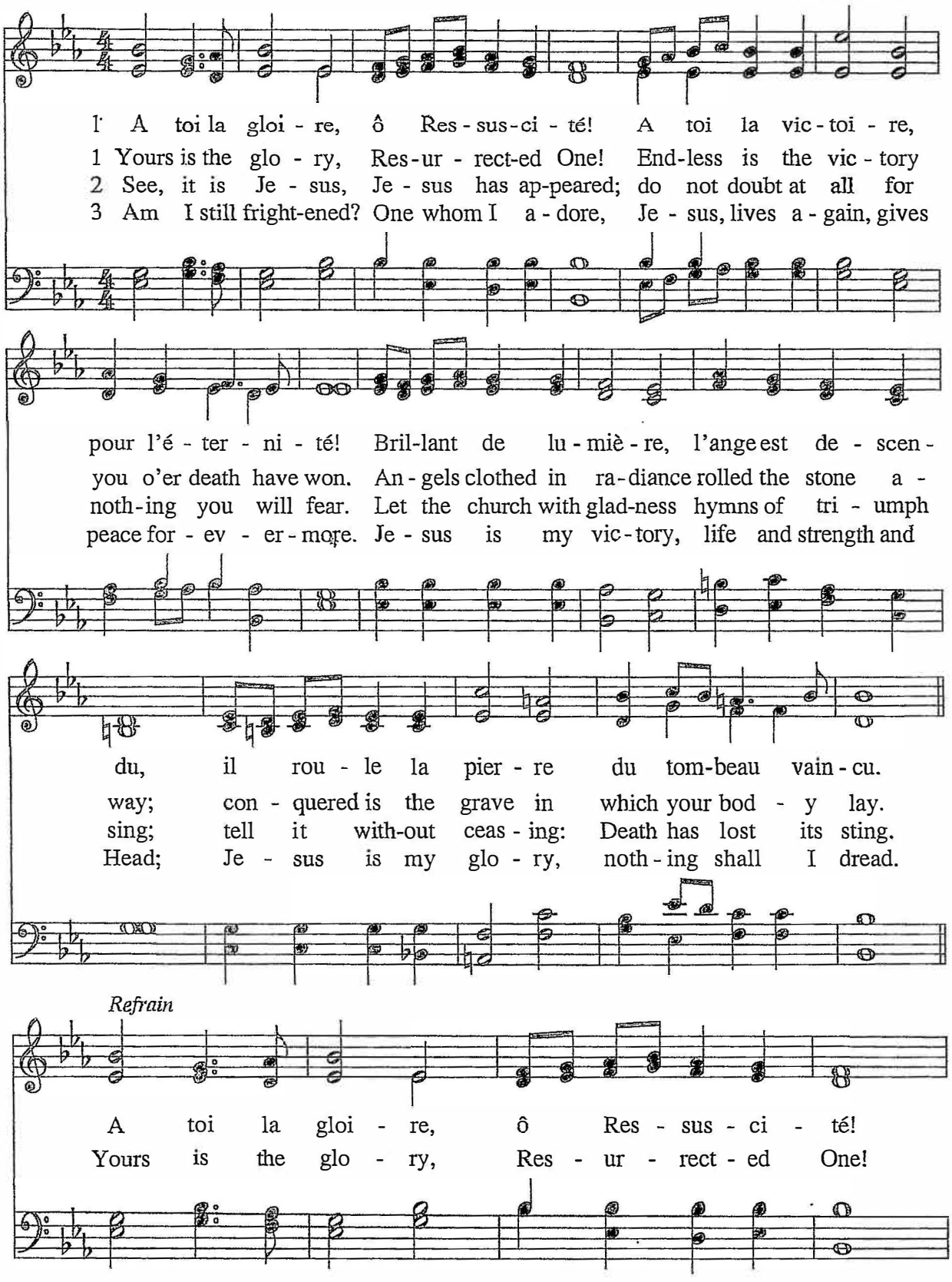
1/2

253

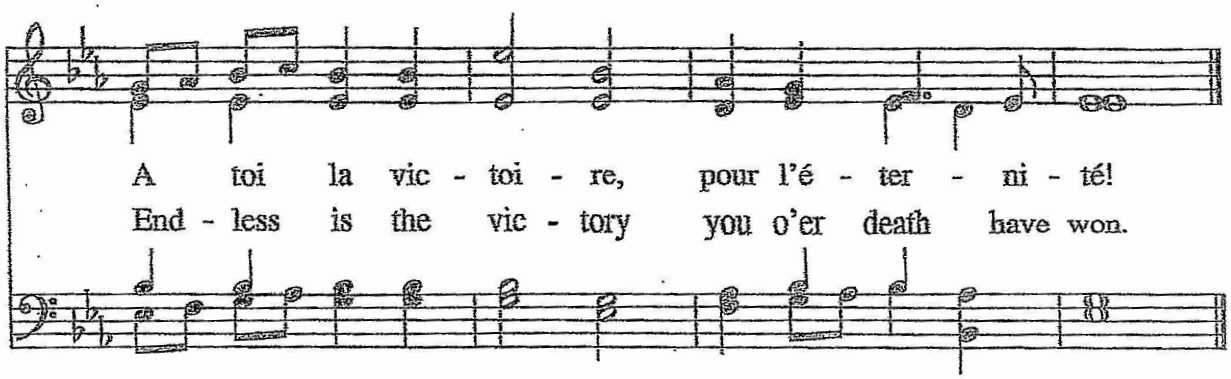
A toi la gloire, ô Ressuscité!
(Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!)

Matt. 28:1–10; John 20:19–29; 1 Cor. 15:54–55

Edmond L. Budry, 1904
Transl. The New Century Hymnal, *1993*


1 A toi la gloi - re, ô Res - sus - ci - té! A toi la vic - toi - re,
1 Yours is the glo - ry, Res - ur - rect-ed One! End-less is the vic - tory
2 See, it is Je - sus, Je - sus has ap-peared; do not doubt at all for
3 Am I still fright-ened? One whom I a - dore, Je - sus, lives a - gain, gives
pour l'é - ter - ni - té! Bril-lant de lu - miè - re, l'ange est de - scen -
you o'er death have won. An - gels clothed in ra - diance rolled the stone a -
noth - ing you will fear. Let the church with glad-ness hymns of tri - umph
peace for - ev - er - more. Je - sus is my vic - tory, life and strength and
du, il rou - le la pier - re du tom-beau vain - cu.
way; con - quered is the grave in which your bod - y lay.
sing; tell it with-out ceas - ing: Death has lost its sting.
Head; Je - sus is my glo - ry, noth - ing shall I dread.
Refrain
A toi la gloi - re, ô Res - sus - ci - té!
Yours is the glo - ry, Res - ur - rect - ed One!

Swiss pastor Edmond L. Budry may have drawn his inspiration for this hymn from a German Advent poem set to Handel's triumphant music. The tune Judas Maccabeus *is adapted from a chorus in Handel's oratorio of the same name.*

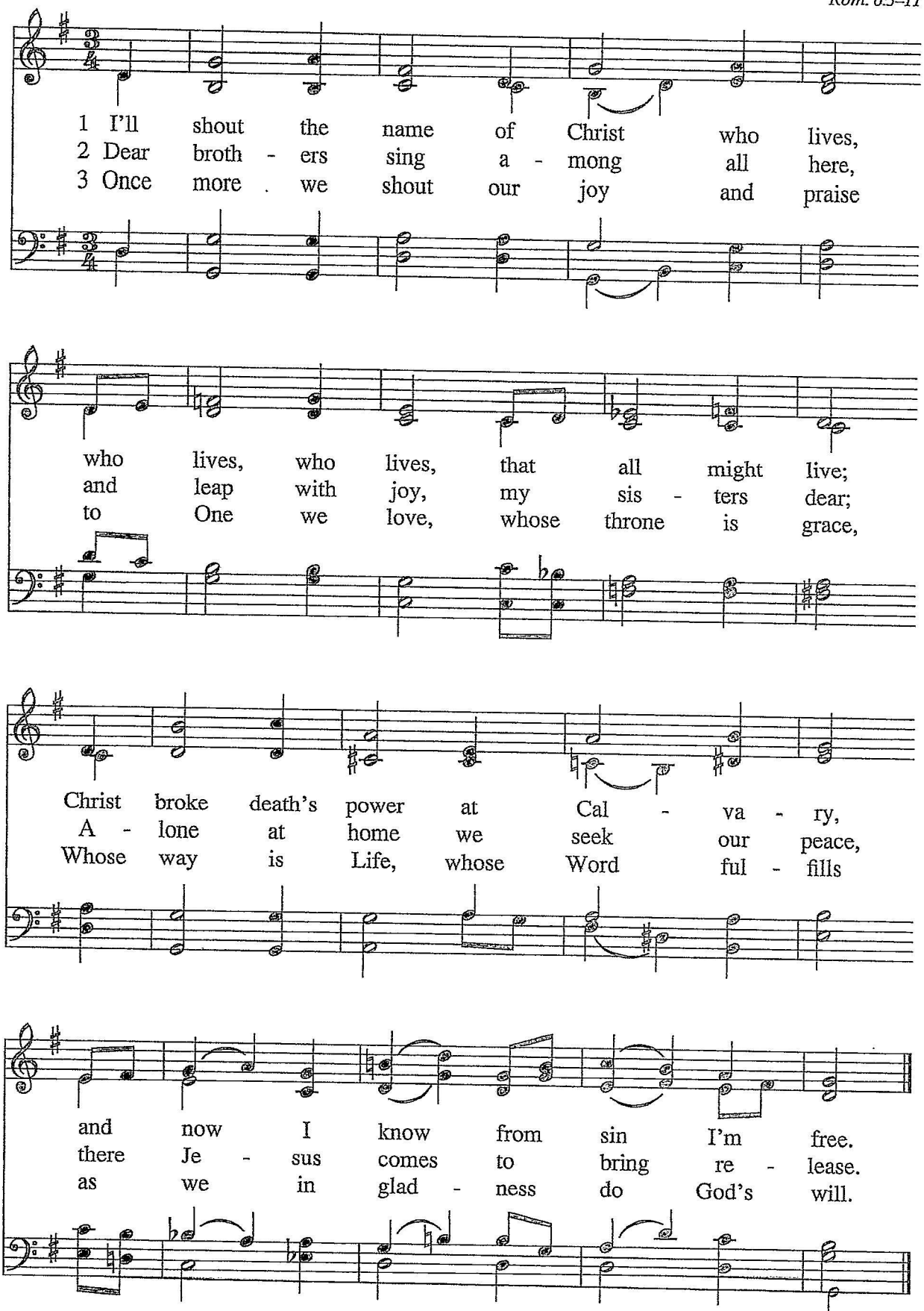
Tune: JUDAS MACCABEUS
5.5.6.5.6.5.6.5. with refrain
G. F. Handel, 1751

A toi la vic - toi - re, pour l'é - ter - ni - té!
End - less is the vic - tory you o'er death have won.

I'll Shout the Name of Christ Who Lives

234

Vivincio L. Vinluan, 1980; alt.

Rom. 6:5–11


1 I'll shout the name of Christ who lives,
2 Dear broth - ers sing a - mong all here,
3 Once more . we shout our joy and praise
who lives, who lives, that all might live;
and leap with joy, my sis - ters dear;
to One we love, whose throne is grace,
Christ broke death's power at Cal - va - ry,
A - lone at home we seek our peace,
Whose way is Life, whose Word ful - fills
and now I know from sin I'm free.
there Je - sus comes to bring re - lease.
as we in glad - ness do God's will.

This contemporary Filipino hymn incorporates a musical motive from a traditional folk song, "Bahay Kubo." It was published in the 1983 collection of Asian-American hymns, Hymns from the Four Winds, *edited by I-to Loh.*

Tune: BAHAY KUBO L.M.
Wesley Tactay Tabayoyong, 1981
Based on a Philippine folk song

For information about what's happening with immigrant rights and **Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights**, or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Melanie Harner at melharner@gmail.com or through the WICIR website: https://wicir.org/. You can also find a link on the church website.

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION

The Coalition brings together Michigan Conference UCC churches that have declared themselves to be Open and Affirming of people of all gender identities. For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open & Affirming Coalition**, or if you are interested in joining, please contact Wayne Burling (734-377-0696). More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/groups/onami). You can also find a link on the church website.

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION

First Congregational is a founding institution of the local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition)**. In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. WeROC members are, at our core, focused on intentionally re-weaving the frayed fabric of community at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated. Especially in this time when so many are being hit by the health and economic crises, WeROC's focus on raising voices of those most affected is more important than ever (See COVID-19 Resources at www.werocmi.org) WeROC's Mission Statement is:

WeROC brings together faith, labor, community organizations, and individuals to build the healthy collective power needed to break down the systems that sustain injustice, racism, and economic inequality.

WeROC is affiliated with the Detroit Metro organization MOSES and the Gamliel National Network. Contact Tad Wysor at tadwysor@gmail.com or 734-883-3225.

This past election year showed us good things can happen when we're working together in the same direction. WeROC is moving rapidly **forward** to keep momentum going and find ways to continue to be more effective together in making our communities healthier and more vibrant places; improving the lives of *everyone* in big ways-- especially those who are most vulnerable and whose voice have seldom been heard.